

each year and spanning two generations, the wilderness areas that can be found from the West to East Coasts are a tangible source of pride, progress, and potential for our Nation.

In 1924, at the insistence of forester and future "A Sand County Almanac" author Aldo Leopold, the Forest Service created the very first federally designated wilderness—the Gila Primitive Area. Located north of Silver City, the Gila Wilderness is a gigantic reserve whose boundaries were eventually made into the 558,000-acre wilderness it is today. Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, chairman of what was then called the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, stated that his support of the wilderness system was the direct result of discussions he had held almost 40 years before with Mr. Leopold. The Wilderness Act made the Gila Primitive Area official 40 years later.

After passing Congress with bipartisan support, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. By the stroke of President Johnson's pen, the Act created 9.2 million acres of wilderness across the country. Today the system includes 662 areas covering about 105.7 million acres in 44 states, about 4 percent of the United States.

For the first time in American history, the Federal Government protected land as it is and defined wilderness as a place that "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a member of the natural community who visits but does not remain and whose travels leave only trails."

The Wilderness Act is a deeply personal law to me. The legislation that President Johnson signed was sponsored by Senator Anderson and was guided through Congress at the urging of my father, then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Serving as Interior Secretary for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, Stewart Udall's accomplishments during his tenure are numerous: he created new national programs such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act, which pushed the nation toward a deeper appreciation and protection of its remaining wild spaces. He helped create many new national parks and forests and the first national seashores. Perhaps most importantly, he established a bipartisan consensus on conservation issues that would endure for 20 years.

I visited with my father recently in Santa Fe about the Wilderness Act. He recalled that President Johnson awarded him 62 ceremonial bill signing pens throughout his service to the White House. As he signed the Wilderness Act into law, President Johnson spoke of Secretary Udall and his staff "going all over the country, looking for places to save." My father recalls the remark as one of the highest compliments he has ever received; this in a lifetime of distinguished service to his country.

With 2.1 percent of its land area protected as wilderness, New Mexico harbors 23 wilderness areas. I have introduced legislation which would designate the first wilderness approved in New Mexico since 1987—the 10,794-acre Ojito Wilderness Study Area. The Bureau of Land Management recommended wilderness status for the Ojito area in 1992. We have had hearings in both the House and Senate on this bipartisan proposal. The bill is strongly sup-

ported in New Mexico by a diverse coalition. It is my sincere hope we can pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. Ojito would remain a natural place, perfect for recreation and quiet contemplation.

My legislation would also provide for the sale of about 13,000 acres of adjacent Bureau of Land Management holdings to Zia Pueblo, land that holds much historic and religious significance to the pueblo. All of it would remain open to the public. As such, the pueblo would be able to unite two separate pieces of its reservation, and in total, 24,000 acres would be preserved and protected. Not only is this place incredibly beautiful, it also contains rich cultural and archeological values. Designating the Ojito as wilderness will ensure that this vast landscape remains as it is, in all its natural glory, for future generations to treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is an opportunity to rekindle the public interest in safeguarding our Nation's unique natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. I urge my colleagues to join with me to ensure we leave a rich legacy of unspoiled wildlands for our families, for our future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM AIRCRAFT

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, one of my greatest joys is to see businesses in my district flourish. Today, I am honored to recognize Adam Aircraft based out of Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. Adam Aircraft designs and manufactures advanced aircraft for civil and government markets.

On August 17, 2004, the company marked the first anniversary of the A700's debut, which is undergoing initial flight testing. The A700 being the first personal aircraft with an installed interior featuring seven seats and an aft lavatory.

In addition to the A700, Adam Aircraft has also made a big showing at the EAA AirVenture 2004 with the A500. The A500 has accumulated three national and two world records for speed over a recognized course and is currently approaching FAA certification by the end of 2004.

Adam Aircraft is building a strong customer base and took a record nine orders for its two aircraft models at the EAA AirVenture 2004 show. Currently they have also taken over 60 orders for the A500 and they promise to be a strong employer for Colorado for the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the back bone of any community is the businesses that operate there. It is my distinct pleasure to honor one of those businesses Adam Aircraft here today, and wish them all the best in her future endeavors.

CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIELDS, HIS GOLDEN RETRIEVER, BEAR, AND ALL OF THE BRAVE RESCUE DOGS WHO SERVED DURING THE 9/11 TRAGEDY

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Captain Scott Shields, his golden retriever, Bear, and the more than 300 dogs that served our country at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the September 11th terrorist attacks. On that fateful morning, Captain Shields and Bear answered the call for assistance at the World Trade Center and were one of the first search and rescue teams to enter the devastated area. Bear and other highly-trained rescue dogs spent the next few days searching in extremely dangerous conditions for those who lost their lives in the attacks.

Scott Shields raised Bear in Westport, Connecticut, where there were no leash laws. As a result, Bear quickly learned to be comfortable maneuvering and taking direction "off leash." In addition to his regular search training, Captain Shields also took Bear to parks, beaches and even obstacle courses to continue his instruction. This preparation proved remarkably useful on the morning of September 11. Trained in disaster management, Captain Shields felt compelled to respond to the disaster and he and Bear drove to what the world would soon recognize as Ground Zero. Captain Shields and Bear entered the disaster site shortly after the second Trade Center tower collapsed to search for those who might have been trapped in the wreckage. Later that day, Captain Shields organized harbor activities, directing boats to transport emergency workers to the Trade Center site.

Bear and his fellow rescue dogs worked in very harsh conditions without the benefits of protective clothing and gas masks. They climbed through piles of debris and squeezed through tunnels of steel and concrete in their attempts to find any signs of human life.

While working in these dangerous conditions, many dogs, including Bear, were injured. Captain Shields and Bear were walking along a steel beam when a piece of twisted metal gouged Bear's back. Although the gash was deep, Bear kept working. Several months later, however, Bear developed a form of skin cancer around the perimeter of the wound. A veterinarian successfully removed the infected tissue, but from then on, Bear's health declined. Bear passed away on September 23, 2002; the following month, hundreds of mourners gathered at his memorial service aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

In Bear's memory, Captain Shields, along with the New York law firm Proskauer Rose, established the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation to ensure that all dogs who participated in search and rescue operations at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon receive appropriate health care. Additionally, the foundation works diligently to provide equipment and instruction to emergency response teams throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring Bear, Scott Shields and the hundreds of search and rescue teams who